

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH J.
TARANTINO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Joseph J. Tarantino, recipient of this year's Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, for his numerous years of service to our community.

Joseph J. Tarantino is the President of Continental Realty Company Incorporated, based in East Norriton, Pennsylvania. He oversees fifty employees and agents and all seven of Continental Realty's divisions, which include professional services in the areas of residential and commercial real estate, insurance, relocation, appraisals, new construction, property management and advertising & marketing.

In addition to his official capacity at Continental Realty, Mr. Tarantino has served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Real Estate Commission, President of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Board of Realtors, and Federal District Coordinator of the National Association of Realtors. He has also maintained several community affiliations such as Chairman of the Borough of Bridgeport Revitalization Committee, President of the National Italian Political Action Committee, Chairman of the Central Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Director of the American Heart Association and Director of the Pathway Schools.

Joseph Tarantino has been recognized on several occasions by his business peers as well as those in the community. He has been a recipient of the Realtors Active in Politics Award, the Central Montgomery County Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year Award and the Americans of Italian Heritage of Montgomery County Outstanding Citizen Award. All of the honors and awards he has received, as well as the positions of leadership Mr. Tarantino has held are a true testament to the hard work and dedication he has shown toward his profession and community. Joseph J. Tarantino is an exemplary citizen for which Montgomery County can be truly proud and I can not think of a more deserving individual to receive the Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing and honoring Joseph J. Tarantino for all that he has done over the years to make Montgomery County, Pennsylvania a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY J. BUTLER,
ESQUIRE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Johnny J. Butler, Esquire, recipient of the 2003 Laborers' Local Union 332 Outstanding Community Leader Award. It is a privilege to recognize a person whose commitment to community has enriched the lives of countless individuals.

Mr. Butler is an attorney with the law firm of Booth & Tucker, LLP of Philadelphia where he focuses on government relations, management consulting, and employment law. He is active in the many aspects of the community including the Prince Hall Masons & Shriners and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Mr. Butler sits on the Board of Trustees for both the Mother Bethel Foundation and the Drexel University College of Medicine, and is cochairman of the Scotland School for Veterans Children capital campaign.

In the past, Mr. Butler was Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Under his leadership, there was a statewide enhancement of workforce development programs and policies, a reform of the state's workers compensation system, and establishment of PennSafe, a workforce safety initiative. Mr. Butler also served as the acting General Counsel of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Assistant Counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and has taught both law and management courses at Howard University and Temple University, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny Butler is a model citizen. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Butler for his lifetime of service and dedication to labor and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA A. LEE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Patricia A. Lee for her achievement in expanding a local business, which has served the Brooklyn community for several years.

Patricia A. Lee was born in Magnolia, NC. She attended E.E. Smith High School in Keanansville, NC, and upon graduation, she continued her education at Norfolk State University. In 1970, she earned a B.S. degree in business administration.

Soon afterward, Patricia was employed by Allstate Insurance Company as an injury claims adjuster. After working for Allstate for two years, she joined her family's business,

the North Carolina Country Store, in Brooklyn, NY, as vice president of Marketing and Business Operations. Her hard work paid dividends, and in 1988, she expanded the business by opening a restaurant, The Carolina Country Kitchen, which has been in Brooklyn for 13 years. The restaurant is now located in the country store.

Patricia is an active member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Jamaica, NY. She has also been involved in numerous community efforts including her membership on the 73rd Community Council and the Bedford Stuyvesant Community Planning Board. Additionally, she is a contributor to several block associations and is very active in her community and neighborhood schools.

Mr. Speaker, Patricia A. Lee has made significant contributions to her community through her entrepreneurial and volunteer activities. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable individual.

HONORING SUFFOLK COUNTY VOL-
UNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIA-
TION 2003 FIREFIGHTERS OF THE
YEAR

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association 2003 "Firefighters of the Year."

This year, the Association is honoring 1st Asst. Chief James M. Cummings, Ex-Captain Robert Souhrada and Firefighter Daniel Boucher of the Bay Shore, NY Fire Department. The testimonial of Chief Michael K. Cummings demonstrates the commitment of these three brave men.

On March 19, 2002, at 18:31 hours the Bay Shore Fire Department was alerted and toned out for a structure fire (signal 13) at 103 Second Avenue. Immediately after going on the air, the Bay Shore base was informed by Suffolk County FireCom there was a child hanging out a window. At 18:33 hours, Engine 3-1-2 and 1st Asst. Chief James Cummings, 3-1-31, went (signal 2) enroute to the scene.

While the crew of 3-1-2 began preparing to enter the building with an attack line, 1st Asst. Chief (3-1-31) James Cummings arrived at the scene and realizing due to heavy smoke and intense flame that time was running out for the trapped victims elected to effect a rescue through the second story front window. As he entered the room, directly in front of the window was 3-year-old John Thomas. Chief Cummings immediately pulled him to his arms and proceeded to the window.

As Chief Cummings was affecting the first rescue, Firefighter Dan Boucher had completed his ascent of the stairs. Firefighter Boucher, unaware that anyone else was in the room, entered the front room. Both Cummings and Boucher arrived at the second

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

victim simultaneously. Firefighter Boucher picked up the second child, 4-year-old Derek Wright and attempted to go back to the stairs.

He was immediately directed by Chief Cummings to take the victim to the window, where he passed the boy to Ex-Capt. Bob Souhrada with no protective gear waiting atop an aluminum ladder that was found on the side of the house.

As resuscitation, attempts were being made on the two youths on the front lawn, Chief Cummings continued to search on his hands and knees in the dense smoke for the third child. As Chief Cummings arrived at the base of a piece of furniture, he realized the piece of furniture was a crib, he felt around and located 8-month-old Starkeya Steeple.

He grabbed the infant and immediately passed her to Firefighter Souhrada on the ladder, where she was rushed to a waiting ambulance that was immediately put in route to Southside Hospital.

At 19:23 hours, the return to base (signal 5) was transmitted by the incident commander, Chief Michael K. Cummings. Thirteen pieces of apparatus and eighty-six firefighters responded to the scene.

Unfortunately, both John Thomas and Derek Wright had succumbed to their injuries on the day of the incident. Starkeya Steeple remained in critical condition after being airlifted to Nassau County Medical Center Burn Unit, where she remained until March 23, 2002, at which time she was pronounced dead, but not before her family was able to have her organs donated.

Without any regard for the grave risk to their personal safety, Asst. Chief James Cummings, Ex-Captain Robert Souhrada, and Firefighter Daniel Boucher displayed extraordinary bravery in rescuing these children without any protective streams or ventilation from the intense heat and consuming smoke of this alarm.

Therefore I respectfully request that these individuals be rewarded the appropriate grade of commendation of valor, for their actions above and beyond the call of duty.

AMERASIAN NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, in the 106th Congress, we passed the Child Citizenship Act to automatically confer U.S. citizenship on foreign born children adopted by U.S. citizens. Our immigration law has also long recognized that children born outside our country to an American father and a foreign national mother are citizens as long as their fathers take the steps necessary to achieve their child's citizenship.

Unfortunately, there remains a group of forgotten sons and daughters who, despite being born to American fathers, cannot take advantage of the Child Citizenship Act or other existing provisions of law.

These are children born in Vietnam to American servicemen and Vietnamese women during the Vietnam War. They have lived through devastation during the Vietnam War, have been mistreated by the Vietnamese government because of their mixed race, and many now live in the United States, but only as legal permanent residents.

There is no doubt that they are the sons and daughters of American fathers. We al-

ready made that determination when we admitted them to the United States as legal permanent residents.

To correct this unfair inequality in our law, I have introduced the Amerasian Naturalization Act of 2003 to ensure that Amerasians are accorded U.S. citizenship just like the offspring of other American fathers are.

I hope this Congress will act swiftly and pass the Amerasian Naturalization Act. It is time for us to finally close a chapter in our history that has too long denied Amerasians the opportunity to become citizens and be recognized as the Americans that they are.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCILMAN JOHN TABOR

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Charlotte City Councilman John Tabor. On October 28, 2003, John will be receiving the Leadership Charlotte Schley R. Lyons Circle of Excellence Award. This award recognizes a Leadership Charlotte graduate who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities, and whose ideals are in line with that of Leadership Charlotte.

The award John is to receive is truly deserved. For over a decade he has served the Charlotte community as a long-standing member and Chairman of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission, on the Leadership Charlotte and Chamber of Commerce Leadership board, and as a member of the American Institute of Architects. He also sits on different committees for the North Carolina and Charlotte American Institute(s), and he is involved in many regional and local architectural projects, most notably the Blumenthal Arts Center. Currently, he serves as a Charlotte City Councilman and represents District 6.

I commend John for his service to the Charlotte community, and congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award. His wife, Lee, and his children, Allie and John Paul, are also to be commended on their great sacrifices so that John can work to make Charlotte a better place to live and work.

HONORING THE NATIONAL TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTER'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Gale Cincotta 30 years ago had a vision that led to the founding of the National Training and Information Center (NTIC) for neighborhood residents to become experts on identifying and resolving the issues on mortgage and insurance redlining, HUD/FHA abuses and community-level drug problems in the inner city.

President Carter appointed Ms. Cincotta to the National Commission on Neighborhoods where she chaired the Reinvestment Task Force. In 1990, NTIC's work, along with that of 9 local organizations, on community-based anti-drug initiatives was recognized by President Bush senior at a White House luncheon. Ms. Cincotta served on the National Commission on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing, established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and she was a member of the Community Investment Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

Ms. Cincotta and the National Training and Information Center established a multi-ethnic, multi-racial coalition of community organizations whose mission is to build grassroots leadership and strengthen neighborhoods through issue-based community organizing. NTIC helps build organizations with the resources and capacity to: (1) identify local issues that impact the urban areas, (2) develop effective strategies to address the root causes of issues, and (3) create opportunities for the organizational leadership to negotiate with business decision-makers. NTIC's primary focus is to provide training and technical assistance to a wide range of groups who are willing to promote and foster community organizing as goals for obtaining affordable housing for families, establishing drug prevention programs for the sick and assist in the fostering of neighborhood and community investments to improve better living conditions for people.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts and achievements of Gale Cincotta and the National Training and Information Center for their 30th anniversary for empowering the people to organize to bring about change and progress in improving the lives of people from all walks of life.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING MAN-MADE FAMINE THAT OCCURRED IN UKRAINE IN 1932-1933

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 20, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 356, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that millions of Ukrainians, who were deliberately and systematically starved in the early 1930's, should be remembered and honored today. To properly commemorate Ukrainians who starved at the hand of Joseph Stalin, we must first acknowledge that this genocide was not only ignored but was also concealed and perpetuated under Stalin's regime.

In its darkest hour, Ukraine was viewed by Stalin as a source of dissent against the Soviet Union. Its rich tradition of open political discourse and cultural splendor were threats to his tyrannical and oppressive regime. To preempt Ukrainian opposition, Stalin wielded a heavy hand in enforcing an ironclad policy of collectivization, in which peasant farmers were forced to turn over the grain they produced. Any man, woman or child caught with even a handful of grain from a collectivized farm